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Typed or Printed Name	Margaret Pierce	Express Mail No.	EL 563 388 228 US
Signature	<i>MPierce</i>	Date	December 29, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Address to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket	IRVN-007CON2
	First Named Inventor	Gatanaga et al.
	Application Number	Unassigned
	Filing Date	Herewith (December 29, 2000)
	Group Art Unit	Unassigned
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
	Title:	"FACTORS AFFECTING TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR RECEPTOR RELEASING ENZYME ACTIVITY"

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

On page 1, line 4, after the first instance of the word "application", insert --is a continuation of US Application Serial No. 09/712,813, filed November 13, 2000 and --.

On page 1, line 4, after "of", insert --International Application No. PCT/US99/10793, filed May 14, 1999 and --

On page 1, line 6, delete "application is" and insert therefore --applications are--.

On page 1, line 6, delete "its" and insert therefore --their--.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-32 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

--33. A method of screening substances for an ability to affect TRRE activity, comprising:

a) incubating TNF receptor or cells expressing TNF receptor with a polypeptide in the presence of the substance;

- b) measuring any TNF receptor cleaved; and
- c) correlating any increase or decrease of the receptor released by the peptide with an ability of the substance to enhance or diminish TRRE activity;
wherein the polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:
 - i) it comprises at least 10 consecutive amino acid residues encoded in any of SEQ. ID NOS:1-10; or
 - ii) it comprises at least 15 consecutive amino acids that are at least 80% identical to a sequence encoded in any of SEQ. ID NOS:1-10.

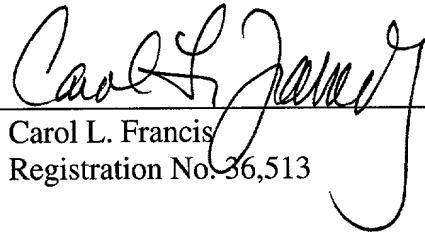
34. The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:

- i) it comprises at least 10 consecutive amino acid residues contained in SEQ. ID NOS: 147-149, 151, or 153-154; or
- ii) it comprises at least 15 consecutive amino acids that are at least 80% identical to a sequence contained in SEQ. ID NOS: 147-149, 151, or 153-154.--

No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

This amendment is being filed with a transmittal letter/fee sheet. In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that extensions or other relief is required and/or fees are due, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0815 for any fees due in connection with the filing of this document.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EL 563 388 228 US

Atty Docket No. IRVN-007CON2

Client No. 96-367-6

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W. P. Inc.

Signature of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION

“FACTORS AFFECTING TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR RECEPTOR RELEASING ENZYME ACTIVITY”

With the help of the King, the people of the city were able to defend themselves against the pirates.

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